

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN**

Plaintiff(s),

v.

Case No.

Defendant(s).

CONSENT TO PROCEED BEFORE A MAGISTRATE JUDGE

This form must be filed with the Clerk of Court within 21 days of receipt. Although choosing to have your case decided by a magistrate judge is optional and refusal will not have adverse substantive consequences, the timely return of this completed form is mandatory.

If you do not consent to a magistrate judge deciding your case, a district judge will handle all aspects of your case. When a case is handled by a district judge, magistrate judges in this district play no further role in the case and do not issue reports and recommendations.

Magistrate judges do not conduct felony trials, and therefore felony trials do not interfere with scheduling and processing of cases before magistrate judges.

Check one:

- The undersigned attorney of record or pro se litigant **consents** to have Magistrate Judge _____ conduct all proceedings in this case, including a bench or jury trial, and enter final judgment in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(c) and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 73(b).
- The undersigned attorney of record or pro se litigant **refuses** to have a magistrate judge enter final judgment in this matter. I understand that this means that a district judge alone will handle all further proceedings in this matter.

Signed this _____ day of _____.

(date)

(month)

(year)

Signature of counsel of record or pro se litigant
 Plaintiff / petitioner (attorney or pro se litigant)
 Defendant / respondent (attorney or pro se litigant)
 Other party

ASSIGNMENT OF CIVIL CASES
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

At the time a new civil action is filed, it is assigned by random selection to either a district judge or a magistrate judge in accordance with the local rules. Pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. §636(c) and Rule 73 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, a United States Magistrate Judge may, with the consent of the parties, conduct all proceedings in this civil action, including a bench or jury trial and order the entry of judgment. The statute provides for direct appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Once the assigned district or magistrate judge has been selected, the local rules of this district require that each party to the action receive a copy of the “consent form.” Each party shall complete the form and file it with the Clerk of Court **within 21 days** after its receipt.

If this case has been randomly assigned to a **district judge** and all parties consent to have the magistrate judge conduct all proceedings in the case, the district judge may enter an order transferring the case to the magistrate judge.

If this case has been randomly assigned to a **magistrate judge** and not all parties consent, then the case will be reassigned by random selection to a district judge. If all parties consent, the magistrate judge will conduct all proceedings in the action.

While the decision to consent or not to consent to the exercise of jurisdiction by the magistrate judge is entirely voluntary, the duty to respond to this order is **mandatory**. Your response shall be made to the Clerk of Court only on the form on the reverse side of this notice.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, that you complete this form and file it with the Clerk of Court within **twenty-one (21) days** from receipt.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

s/William C. Griesbach

Honorable William C. Griesbach,
Chief Judge